

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Gwynne Millar <Gwynne\_Millar@ewg.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 5:32 PM  
**To:** Chris O'Brien  
**Subject:** Support of RI Promise

Dear committee members,

As a long time teacher at Exeter West Greenwich High School, I know the anxiety students and their families endure when thinking about where to attend college. The reason for that anxiety is always affordability. Parents want their children to go to college, but are afraid they can't afford it, and so they choose not to pursue the option. Thanks to RI Promise, many students who otherwise would not have gone to college – because they didn't think they could afford it – have gone to CCRI, where they have excelled. It has been a game-changer for so many families.

I often tell my students to attend CCRI as it is an opportunity to continue their education while not incurring tens of thousands of dollars in debt. I see many students who go out of state for college, only for them to realize it isn't for them, and they return to Rhode Island without a plan. With Promise, students stay here in Rhode Island, earn a degree, and can easily transfer to URI or RIC.

As a teacher, I know the value of a college degree. I want that for all my students. But, the harsh reality is that too many families can't afford it. RI Promise gives them a path to that degree and a brighter future. All our students deserve that chance.

There is no doubt that if the Promise program ended, Rhode Island would see a significant decrease in students who go on to college immediately after graduation. And, with the pandemic and the economic fallout, Rhode Island families need this program more than ever.

As an educator and a Rhode Island resident, I urge this committee to support students and their families and make RI Promise a permanent program. It's the right thing for our students and our state.

Thank you,

Gwynne Millar

Richmond, RI

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